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Date: 7 July 1978

Item No. 3

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±7SOVIET±

7BY BOB HORTON±

WASHINGTON, JULY 7; REUTER - THE SOVIET UNION WILL DEVOTE INCREASING AMOUNTS OF MONEY TO DEFENSE IN THE 1980S DESPITE CONCERN OVER AN ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN; ACCORDING TO A U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) STUDY RELEASED TODAY.

THE REPORT SUGGESTED THAT THE ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN THE SOVIET UNION HAD EXPERIENCED SINCE THE 1960S COULD AT BEST PROMPT ONLY MODEST CHANGES IN SOVIET DEFENSE PLANS.

"ALL OF THE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO US ON SOVIET DEFENSE PROGRAMS UNDER WAY AND PLANNED SUGGESTS THAT THE LONG-TERM UPWARD TREND IN ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO DEFENSE IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE INTO THE 1980S," THE AGENCY SAID.

"THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ARE CAUSING MAJOR CHANGES IN DEFENSE POLICY.

"THE ATMOSPHERE IN MOSCOW WITH REGARD TO THE ECONOMY, HOWEVER, IS ONE OF CONCERN, AND THE SOVIET LEADERS COULD BE CONTEMPLATING MODEST ALTERATIONS IN MILITARY FORCE GOALS," THE CIA SAID.±

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